



**Wildlife Impact Management Plan (WIMP) AND
Environmental Site Assessment Report
FOR
Blue-Mustang Lateral**

Prepared For:



City of Aurora
15151 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora, CO 80012

Prepared By:



1720 South Bellaire Street, Suite 400
Denver, CO 80222
www.rpgres.com

Date Prepared: March 2024

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. PROJECT LOCATION	3
3. METHODS	3
4. RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS	4
4.1. High Priority Habitats.....	4
4.2. Bald and Golden Eagles	4
4.3. Burrowing Owls	4
4.4. Other Raptors	4
4.5. Migratory Birds.....	4
4.6. Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species	5
Table 1. IPaC Report Results & Assessment	5
4.7. Wetlands and Waters of the U.S.....	7
4.8. 100-year Floodplain	7
4.9. Safety and Other Concerns	7
SUMMARY TABLE.....	8
PHOTOS.....	9
LITERATURE CITED	11

APPENDIX A – Environmental Site Assessment

APPENDIX B – Environmental Site Map

Wildlife Impact Management Plan Applicability Statement:

This project is not located in any Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) mapped High-Priority Habitat (HPH). The project is located within the CPW-recommended 1/8-mile buffer around suitable burrowing owl habitat. This report includes: Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will be implemented as needed to address the burrowing owl habitat, the overall results of the environmental site assessment for this location, and other applicable recommendations to ensure the protection of other natural resources.

1. INTRODUCTION

RPG Resources (RPG), on behalf of Crestone Peak Resources Midstream, LLC (Civitas Resources, Inc.), conducted an environmental site assessment for the Blue-Mustang Lateral project location to identify any wildlife or other natural resource constraint(s) present within or surrounding the proposed project area. This assessment was conducted in order to ensure Crestone Peak Resources Midstream, LLC's (CPRM) compliance with the City of Aurora Oil & Gas Division requirements, the Colorado Energy & Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) 1200 Series Rules, Endangered Species Act (ESA), Colorado Nongame, Endangered, or Threatened Species Conservation Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), Clean Water Act (CWA), and other applicable requirements and recommendations. This report summarizes the project location, methods, assessment results, and recommendations to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife and other natural resources.

2. PROJECT LOCATION

CPRM's Blue-Mustang Lateral (Site) is in Section 34 of Township 3 South, Range 65 West in Adams County, Colorado. Boundaries of the Site are defined as the limits of disturbance, including the permanent easement. The Site is in the Central High Plains, Southern Part Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) of the Western Great Plains Range and Irrigated Region Land Resource Region (LRR; NRCS 2006), and the field-verified surrounding land type is agricultural.

3. METHODS

RPG's environmental site assessment included a desktop review of aerial imagery, agency-mapped sensitive natural resources, and a site-specific U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consulting (IPaC) report. Following the desktop review, RPG conducted a windshield and pedestrian field site survey on March 20, 2024. The field survey was conducted by a qualified biologist and included survey for nesting raptors within ½ mile as well as any burrowing owl habitat / prairie dog colonies within 1/8 mile (660 feet) of the Site (Appendix B). Although the field survey was conducted outside the standard Colorado non-raptor migratory bird breeding season, suitable habitat for non-raptor nesting was also assessed during the site visit. Recommendations to avoid and minimize impacts to wildlife and other sensitive natural resources were provided based on the results of the assessment and the proposed start date.

4. RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. High Priority Habitats

The Site is not located within any Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)-mapped High Priority Habitats (HPHs) listed in the COGCC 1200 Series Rules, nor or there any mapped HPHs within ½ mile.

No action recommended.

4.2. Bald and Golden Eagles

No bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) or golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) nests or nesting activity was observed during the Site visit. There are no trees physically suitable for eagle nesting within ½ mile and no nearby perennial water. There are also no CPW-mapped bald eagle winter night roost areas within ½ mile of the Site.

No action recommended.

4.3. Burrowing Owls

There is suitable burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) habitat (i.e, black-tailed prairie dog colony) that was identified approximately 130 feet southwest of the Site. This is within the CPW-recommended 1/8-mile (660-foot) buffer for burrowing owls. The burrows closest to the Site were observed to be in good condition, suitable for burrowing owl nesting.

If construction begins between March 15 and October 31, burrowing owl surveys will be conducted by qualified biologists, in accordance with CPW-recommended protocol.

4.4. Other Raptors

Suitable non-eagle raptor nesting habitat, including ground, trees, and artificial structures (e.g. utility poles, farming equipment, and oil and gas structures), were observed within ½ mile of the Site. One inactive non-eagle raptor nest was observed approximately 0.46 miles northwest at the time of the Site visit.

If construction begins between February 1 and August 15, additional raptor nesting surveys will be conducted by qualified biologists.

4.5. Migratory Birds

The Site assessment was conducted outside the standard Colorado non-raptor migratory bird nesting season. No nests or nesting activity were observed; however, suitable nesting habitat, including surface topography, vegetation, and artificial structures, is present at and immediately surrounding the Site.

If construction begins between April 1 and August 31, migratory bird nesting surveys will be conducted by qualified biologists.

4.6. Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species

The USFWS IPaC report listed eight (8) federally listed threatened or endangered (T&E) or candidate species that have potential to occur in the geographical area in which the Site is located. However, no suitable habitat for any of these species was observed at the Site during the field survey (Table 1).

Table 1. IPaC Report Results & Assessment

Species	Habitat Description	Results & Recommendations
Mammals		
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> Proposed Endangered	Tricolored bats are found in caves, mines, culverts, and trees. Primarily among leaves of live or recently dead deciduous hardwood trees, but may also be found in Spanish moss, pine trees, and occasionally human structures.	No suitable habitat is present within the Site. No recommended action.
Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse <i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i> Threatened	The Preble's meadow jumping mouse (PMJM) inhabits well-developed riparian habitat with a dense combination of multi-story vegetation, adjacent and relatively undisturbed grassland habitat, and a nearby water source. The PMJM uses uplands at least as far out as 100 meters beyond the 100-year floodplain.	No suitable habitat is present within the Site. No recommended action.
Birds		
Piping plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Threatened	The piping plover breeds on bare sand or gravel beaches, sandbars, or islands along rivers, reservoirs, or alkaline wetlands. Limited numbers breed in Colorado.	No suitable habitat present within the Site. No recommended action.
Whooping crane <i>Grus americana</i> Endangered	The whooping crane breeds, nests, migrates, winters, and forages in wetlands, coastal marshes, estuaries, inland marshes, lakes, ponds, wet meadows and rivers, and agricultural fields. <i>There are no known populations currently present in Colorado.</i>	No suitable habitat present within the Site. No river depletions or other impacts to potential downstream habitats expected to occur. No recommended action.

Fish		
Pallid sturgeon <i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i> Endangered	The pallid sturgeon is a bottom-oriented, large river obligate fish that is found in the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and some tributaries. <i>There are no known populations currently present in Colorado.</i>	No suitable habitat present within the Site. No river depletions or other impacts to potential downstream habitats expected to occur. No recommended action.
Insects		
Monarch butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> Candidate	Although Critical Habitat Documents are not currently available for the monarch butterfly, this species almost exclusively utilizes milkweed (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.) for breeding and reproduction. During spring migration, this species will commonly nectar on <i>Coreopsis</i> spp., <i>Viburnum</i> spp. and <i>Phlox</i> spp. Additionally, western populations rely on various native and non-native evergreen and deciduous trees as roost sites during nighttime migration periods. Note: The monarch butterfly is a candidate species and not yet listed or proposed for listing.	No suitable habitat present within the Site. No recommended action.
Flowering Plants		
Ute ladies'-tresses <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i> Threatened	The Ute ladies'-tresses is primarily found in moist meadows and may also be found in seasonally flooded river terraces, sub-irrigated or spring-fed abandoned stream channels, lakeshores, irrigation canals, berms, levees, irrigated meadows, reservoirs, and other similar habitat.	No suitable habitat present within the Site. No river depletions or other impacts to potential downstream habitats expected to occur. No recommended action.
Western prairie fringed orchid <i>Platanthera praeclara</i> Threatened	The western prairie fringed orchid is a perennial species most often found in unplowed, calcareous prairies and sedge meadows and dependent on moist soils. <i>There are no known populations currently present in Colorado.</i>	No suitable habitat present within the Site. No river depletions or other impacts to potential downstream habitats expected to occur. No recommended action.

The Colorado state-listed T&E species that have potential to occur in the same geographical area as the Site are the burrowing owl and the Preble's meadow jumping mouse, both of which are discussed above in section 4.3 and Table 1, respectively.

4.7. Wetlands and Waters of the U.S.

There are no mapped wetlands or Waters of the U.S. within the Site. No unmapped wetlands or waterbodies were observed during the field survey.

No actions recommended.

4.8. 100-year Floodplain

The Site is not located within any Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-mapped 100-year floodplain, nor is there a FEMA-mapped 100-year floodplain within ½ mile of the site.

No actions recommended.

4.9. Safety and Other Concerns

No safety or other concerns were identified at the Site.

No actions recommended.

SUMMARY TABLE

Natural Resource	Result Summary	Recommendation
High Priority Habitats	The Site is not within any High Priority Habitats, nor are there any High Priority Habitats within ½ mile.	No actions recommended.
Bald and Golden Eagles	No bald or golden eagle nests were observed within ½ mile of the Site. There are no bald eagle winter night roost areas within ½ mile.	No actions recommended.
Burrowing Owls	There is suitable habitat (active prairie dog colony) for burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>) nesting approximately 130 feet southwest of the easement.	If construction begins between March 15 and October 31, burrowing owl surveys will be conducted by qualified biologists, in accordance with CPW-recommended protocol.
Other Raptors	One (1) non-eagle raptor nest was observed 0.46 miles northwest of the Site; and there is habitat suitable for non-eagle raptor nests within ½ mile of the Site.	If construction begins between February 1 and August 15, additional raptor nesting surveys will be conducted by qualified biologists.
Migratory Birds	The Site assessment was conducted outside the standard Colorado non-raptor migratory bird nesting season. No nests or nesting activity were observed; however, suitable nesting habitat, including surface topography, vegetation, and artificial structures, is present at and immediately surrounding the Site	If construction begins between April 1 and August 31, migratory bird nesting surveys will be conducted by qualified biologists.
Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species	There is no suitable habitat for any threatened, endangered, or candidate species that may occur within the Site.	No actions recommended.
Wetlands and Waters of the U.S.	There are no mapped wetlands or Waters of the U.S. within the Site. No unmapped wetlands or waterbodies were observed during the field survey.	No actions recommended.
100-Year Floodplain	The Site is not within any FEMA-mapped 100-year floodplain.	No actions recommended.
Safety and Other Concerns	No safety or other concerns were identified at the Site.	No actions recommended.

PHOTOS



1. Facing southeast from northwestern terminus of easement.



2. Facing northwest from center of easement.



3. Facing southeast from center of easement.



4. Facing northwest from southeastern terminus of easement.

LITERATURE CITED

- Energy and Carbon Management Commission. 2021. Protection of Wildlife Resources 1200 Series. Department of Natural Resources.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife. 2020. Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions for Colorado Raptors. Department of Natural Resources.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Species Profiles. <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/SpeciesProfiles.aspx>. Accessed March 2024.
- National Resources Conservation Service. 2006. National Coordinated Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Version 4.2. U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Soil Survey Center.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2020. Web Soil Survey National Cooperative Soil Survey. <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Accessed March 2024.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. ECOS Environmental Conservation Online System. <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/>. Accessed March 2024.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2016. Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Northern Great Plains Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*).
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation. <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. Accessed March 2024.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2021. Recovery Outline for the Eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*).
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2021. Featured Pollinator Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*). https://www.fws.gov/pollinators/features/Monarch_Butterfly.html. Accessed March 2024.

APPENDIX A
Environmental Site Assessment



ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT



Project Name:	Blue-Mustang Lateral	County, State:	Adams County, CO
Report Date:	4/8/2024	Region:	DJ Basin
Inspection Date:	3/20/2024	Field Name:	Wildcat
Inspector Name:	Dave Ames	Location:	S34 T3S R65W
ESA Type:	Linear Easement	Project Lat-Long:	39.746285 [°] -104.655491

RAPTORS

Bald and Golden Eagle Habitat:	No	Status:	CLEARED
Bald and Golden Eagle Active Nests:	No		

No bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) or golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) nests or nesting activity were observed within ½ mile of the Site during the field surveys. There is no suitable eagle nesting habitat (e.g., trees and cliffs) within ½ mile of the Site.

Bald Eagle Winter Night Roost/Communal Roost:	No	Status:	CLEARED
--	----	----------------	----------------

There are no CPW-mapped bald eagle winter night roosts / communal roosts within 1/2 mile of the Site.

*Burrowing Owls and Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Habitat:	Yes	Status:	TEMPORARILY CLEARED
*Burrowing Owl nests:	No		

Suitable burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) habitat (i.e., black-tailed prairie dog colony) was identified approximately 130 feet southwest of the Site, within the CPW-recommended 1/8 mile (660-foot) species specific buffer.

Other Raptor Habitat:	Yes	Status:	TEMPORARILY CLEARED
Other Raptor Nests:	Yes		

There is suitable non-eagle raptor nesting habitat (e.g., trees and artificial structures) within 1/2 mile of the Site. There is one (1) inactive raptor nest approximately 0.46 mile northwest of the Site.

OTHER BIRDS

Grouse or Prairie Chicken High Priority Habitats:	No	Status:	CLEARED
--	----	----------------	----------------

The Site is not within any grouse or prairie chicken HPHs.

Non-Raptor Migratory Bird Habitat:	Yes	Status:	TEMPORARILY CLEARED
Non-Raptor Migratory Bird Nests:	No		

Suitable non-raptor nesting habitat (e.g., surface topography and vegetation) is present at and immediately surrounding the Site, however, no nests or nesting activity were observed during the field surveys.

MAMMALS

Big Game High Priority Habitats:	No	Status:	CLEARED
---	----	----------------	----------------

The Site is not located within any CPW-mapped High Priority Habitats.

** Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (PMJM) Habitat:	No	Status:	CLEARED
---	----	----------------	----------------

There is no suitable PMJM habitat at the Site.

Swift Fox Habitat:	No	Status:	CLEARED
Swift Fox Dens:	No		

The Site is not within CPW-mapped swift fox overall range, and no swift fox habitat was observed during the survey. Swift fox habitat is mapped approximately 0.47 miles south of the Site.

VEGETATION

**Ute ladies'-tresses orchid (ULTO):	No	Status:	CLEARED
---	----	----------------	----------------

There is no suitable Ute ladies'-tresses orchid habitat at the Site. Not a constraint.

Colorado State Noxious Weeds - List A,B,C:	No	Status:	CLEARED
---	----	----------------	----------------

No noxious weeds observed, survey conducted outside normal growing season.

Current Land Use:	Cropland and O&G	Future Land Use:	Cropland and O&G
--------------------------	------------------	-------------------------	------------------



ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT



AQUATIC HABITATS

Aquatic High Priority Habitats:	No	Status:	CLEARED
There are no Aquatic High Priority Habitats within 1000 feet of the Site.			
Wetlands/WOUS:	No	Status:	CLEARED
No wetlands or Waters of the U.S. observed within 500 feet of the Site.			

OTHER/SAFETY

Other Issues:	No	Status:	CLEARED
None.			
Safety Issues:	No	Status:	CLEARED
None.			

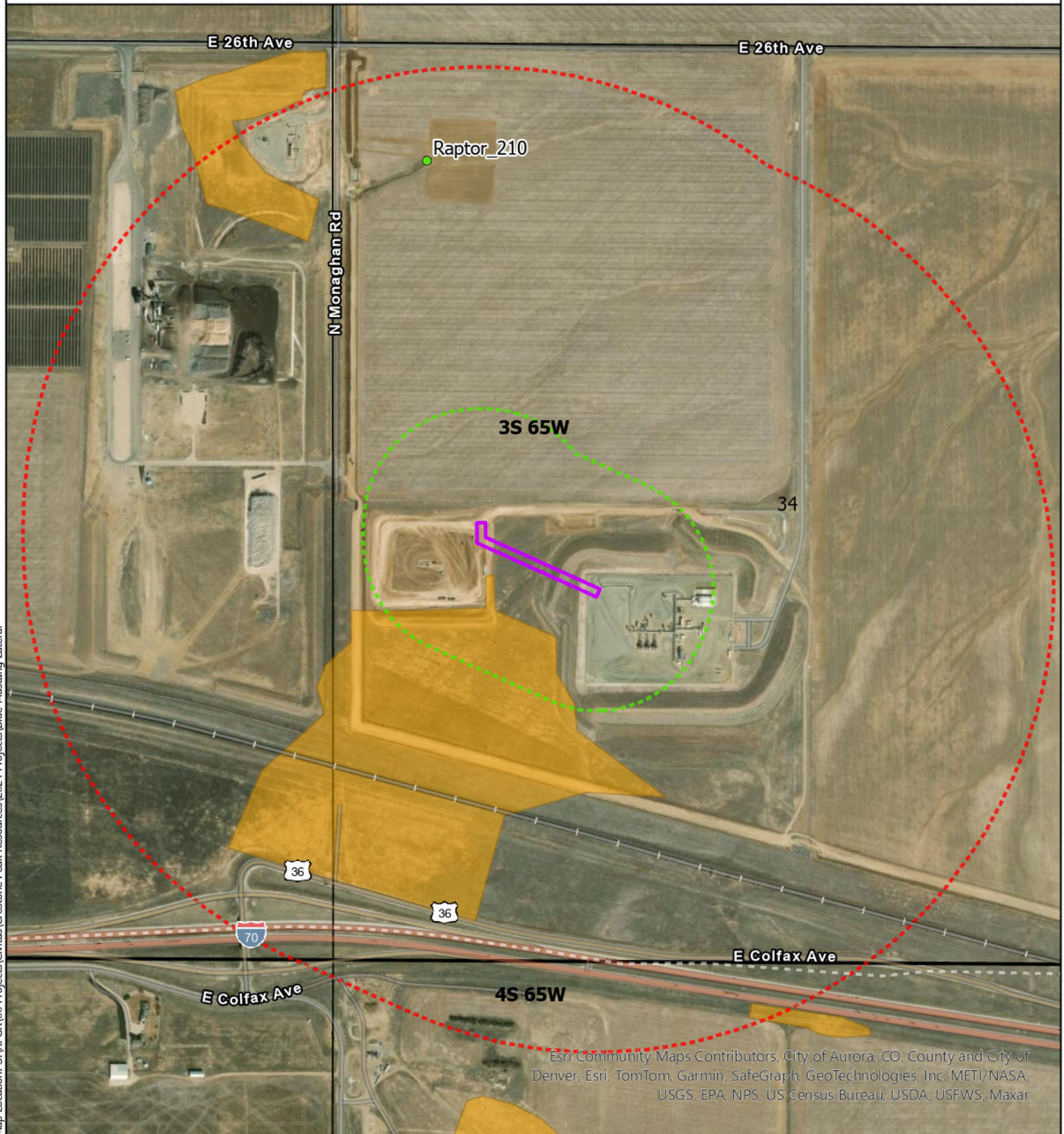
FIELD DATA COLLECTED	GENERAL COMMENTS
Site Photos?	Yes
Reference Area Photos?	Yes
Updated Aerial Imagery Taken?	Yes
Ground Control Points?	Yes
Wetland Determination Data Form?	No
There is suitable burrowing owl nesting habitat present within 1/8 mile of the Site. There is suitable non-eagle raptor and migratory bird nesting habitat present. Additional wildlife surveys are recommended prior to the start of construction to ensure no sensitive wildlife resources will be impacted.	

Reviewed By: Brent Hoepfner
 Signature: 

Title: Wildlife Project Manager

APPENDIX B
Environmental Site Map

CRESTONE PEAK RESOURCES MIDSTREAM LLC (CIVITAS RESOURCES)
 BLUE-MUSTANG LATERAL
 SEC 34, T3S, R65W, 6th P.M.
 ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO



Esri Community Maps Contributors, City of Aurora, CO; County and City of Denver, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS, Maxar

ENVIRONMENTAL
 MAP

- Permanent Easement
- 0.125-Mile Survey Radius
- 0.5-Mile Survey Radius
- Inactive Non-Eagle Raptor Nest
- Burrowing Owl Habitat

Projection: WGS 1984
 Date: 04/01/2024
 Drafted by: BRH

